



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

July 3, 2008

For immediate release

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FLOOD WATERS WARRANT EXTRA CAUTION HEADING INTO HOLIDAY WEEKEND

MEDIA CONTACTS: Kevin Baskins at 515-281-8395 or Mary Skopec at 319-335-1579.

DES MOINES – Despite the record flooding in Iowa this summer, many Iowans will be looking for respite in water-related activities during the Fourth of July holiday weekend and should exercise additional caution.

“Navigational hazards are still the most potentially dangerous problems out there, but there are water quality issues people will want to be aware of as well,” said Mary Skopec who supervises the DNR’s water monitoring program.

Iowa’s state park beaches are headed into the holiday in mostly good shape. Advisories due to bacteria levels have been issued only for Backbone State Park in Delaware County and Pine Lakes State Park in Hardin County. Beach monitoring results are available at <http://wqm.igsb.uiowa.edu/activities/beach/beach.htm>

Since June 9, the DNR has conducted nearly 13,000 water sample analysis of flood-impacted rivers and streams across the state. Results of the comprehensive water monitoring being conducted will be posted on the Iowa DNR Web site starting sometime next week.

Some communities still have waste treatment plants that aren't functioning or only partially functioning because of the floods. Communities still experiencing significant sewage treatment problems are Cedar Rapids, Burlington, Coralville, Eddyville and Anamosa. Recreational activity such as swimming or skiing that could result in accidental ingestion of water should be avoided on rivers near these areas.

The extensive water sampling has shown some elevated levels of bacteria found in rivers and streams, but numbers are similar to what is experienced after most rainfall events in Iowa, said Skopec.

"There may be more bacteria overall than normal, but the higher water levels are diluting the concentrations of bacteria found in the streams," said Skopec.

Skopec said the testing has also not shown many occurrences of other potential sources of contamination such as industrial chemicals.

"As we've stated in the past, the water that would be of greatest concern is that water that is trapped in basements or trapped on land after the rivers receded. Rivers are very dynamic and most of the contamination that would have gotten in from the flooding moves through the system rapidly due to the high flow rates," said Skopec.

Skopec said bacteria levels are always fluctuating and are often difficult for the public to understand.

"Bacteria are naturally occurring in the environment. After years of extensive sampling, we do know that bacteria levels go up significantly after material is washed into a waterway by rain and go down very quickly with dry, sunny conditions," said Skopec.

Skopec said the potential for getting sick from recreating in water with high bacteria levels comes primarily from ingestion, although infections can also develop if a person has an open wound exposed to bacteria.

High bacteria levels do not affect fishing or the safety of eating fish filets at all. Fish caught during flood periods should be rinsed in clean water prior to scaling and filleting. As well, it is advised that any fish caught and prepared as a meal should be cooked thoroughly to avoid cross contamination between raw and cooked fish or other foods.

"People would only need to be concerned about high bacteria levels if they are doing something such as swimming or skiing where there would be greater potential for ingesting substantial amounts of water," said Skopec.

The most dangerous conditions to water-related activity over the holiday weekend remain the higher water conditions, according to the DNR.

Poor water clarity poses a potential hazard because people can't see submerged debris under the surface and it is harder to find someone like a child if they go under. Likewise,

the flood conditions created a number of navigational hazards to boating, canoeing and kayaking such as debris and other obstructions. Because of the high river levels, the water is also moving much faster and deeper than normal and in unfamiliar back channels of rivers and streams.

Writer: Kevin Baskins

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DNR APPLIES EMERGENCY FLOOD POLICIES FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

MEDIA CONTACT: Elaine Douskey, DNR, at (515) 281-8011 or Elaine.Douskey@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES—The DNR is taking steps to prevent underground storage tanks from leaking and causing environmental problems in areas that were flooded.

Such tanks are normally buried underground, but may have been displaced or damaged by flood waters. Because they often contain petroleum products or other hazardous substances such as chemical solvents, it's important to determine if they are damaged or leaking.

The DNR is requiring and notifying owners and operators of underground storage tanks located in flood-affected areas to have their UST systems evaluated by a certified inspector before resuming or continuing operation.

“This will allow owners and operators to safely bring underground storage tanks back into service after flooding,” said Elaine Douskey, environmental program supervisor with the DNR’s Land Quality Bureau.

The new policies require that the tanks be inspected for obvious damage or evidence that there has been a release of the contents. All suspected releases must be reported to the DNR. If damage is present, check the DNR Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/land/ust/index.html for specific requirements before resuming operations. A licensed inspector must certify that the tank meets the DNR’s emergency policy guidelines. Normally the tanks are inspected every two years.

Farm or residential tanks of 1,100 gallons or less used for storing motor fuel for noncommercial purposes, heating oil tanks, septic tanks, surface impoundments (including lagoons, ponds, storm or wastewater collection systems), and some other tanks are exempt from the certified inspection requirements.

The DNR is continuing its on-site visits to flood-affected underground storage tank locations. Preliminary mapping information indicates approximately 75 sites may have been affected by flooding. DNR field staff has visited 40 of these to date. Only two sites have had tanks forced out of the ground by flood waters.

For more information or assistance, contact Tom Collins at (515) 281-8879 or Paul Nelson at (515) 281-8779, both with DNR Land Quality Bureau. Owners and operators can also contact their area field representative.

Writer: Kati Bainter

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

MEDIA CONTACT: Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131.

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131. The orders were taken in May and June 2008 unless otherwise noted.

Enforcement actions, including copies of the original orders and contact information, are available on the DNR's Web site at www.iowadnr.gov/legal/eactions.html. The Web listing offers orders first taken in 2007 or 2008 (amendments to orders issued prior to 2007 are not listed).

Administrative Orders

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

Kossuth, Monona Counties

- Brush and Weed Control Specialists, Inc. (BWCS), of Algona, and New Farmers Drainage District (NFDD), of Onawa, were issued an administrative order to compensate the DNR for damages of a fish kill due to the misapplication of herbicides by BWCS to a water of the State owned and controlled by NFDD. BWCS is ordered to pay \$14,732.89 in fish restitution. BWCS and NFDD were each ordered to pay a \$5,000 penalty, with BWCS ordered to pay an additional culpability assessment of \$4,000. NFDD was ordered to pay a culpability assessment of \$1,000 and to notify the DNR at least 72 hours prior to applying herbicides within the drainage district in 2008 and 2009.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Audubon, Union and Ringgold Counties

- Partners in Pork, LLP, of Audubon, and Aries Sow, LLC, of Afton agreed in a consent order to reduce the population of the Stateline Pork facility in Middlefork

Township. The facility was recently acquired from WhiteStone Farms and was operating over capacity at the time of purchase. The new owners have agreed to reduce the amount of animals to the permitted limit within 90 days of the closing date of the sale, and to submit animal inventories every 30 days until the permitted level is reached.

Clarke, Polk, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union Counties

- Iowa Select Farms, LLP, of Des Moines, agreed in a consent order to submit an original manure management plan (MMP) for each animal feeding operation that it acquires from WhiteStone Farms. Until an MMP is approved, the company will comply with certain procedures outlined in the consent order regarding manure application and freeboard reporting. The animal feeding operations are located in Clark, Ringgold, Taylor and Union Counties.

Clinton County

- Clinton County Bio Energy, LLC, agreed in a consent order to comply with all stormwater discharge permit requirements, submit an updated Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) and pay a \$7,000 penalty. This consent order was in regard to a wastewater discharge violations and failure to have an appropriate PPP.
- Donald Burken Sr., Donald Burken Jr., and L&M Hogs, LLC, of Clinton, agreed in a consent order to take several measures to comply with DNR air quality, water quality, solid waste and animal feeding operations standards. Among other actions, they agree to submit and implement a plan of action regarding the development of a manure control system, bury dead animals within 24 hours of their death, cease all improper waste removal and open burning, and pay a penalty of \$4,500.

Jefferson County

- The City of Fairfield agreed in a consent order to submit inflow and infiltration data concerning the wastewater collection system and to submit a plan of action and compliance schedule for elimination of sanitary sewer overflows in the wastewater collection system. The city agrees to pay stipulated penalties if these deadlines are not met. The order was in response to a number of sanitary sewage overflows found in the city's sewer system.

Keokuk County

- Joe'd, Karen, and Jesse Axmear of North English, agreed in a consent order to submit a complete Iowa phosphorus manure management plan (MMP) and pay a \$4,000 penalty. The consent order was in regards to failure to submit an MMP.
- Karl Molyneux, of What Cheer, agreed in a consent order to cease illegal dumping of solid waste and open burning, to clean up the property where the salvage goods have been burned and ash piles remain, to provide receipts proving proper disposal of this waste and ash, and to pay a \$2,500 penalty. The consent

order is in regard to violations of solid waste and open burning laws and regulations.

- Mike Welter, dba M&M Enterprises, of Sigourney, agreed in a consent order to clean up solid waste materials, submit receipts of proper disposal to the DNR, and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning violations at a site in Sigourney.

Lee County

- Roquette America, Inc., of Keokuk, agreed with the DNR in a consent order to create a compliance schedule for correcting specific violations so that the DNR may consider the issuance of construction permits to Roquette. The consent order is in regard to failure to demonstrate compliance with specific emission limit tests and other air quality violations.

Mills County

- Lee Construction, Inc., of Council Bluffs, agreed in a consent order to comply with all stormwater discharge permit requirements for the Lake Ohana Subdivision development near Glenwood, and to pay a penalty of \$2,000. The consent order is due to failure to maintain stormwater discharge control measures that prevent unauthorized discharge of sediment from the site.
- N-T Lands, LLC, Ohana Lakes, LLC, and Craig Nakomoto, of Glenwood, agreed in a consent order to comply with all stormwater discharge permit requirements for the Lake Ohana Subdivision development and to pay a \$9,750 penalty. The consent order is in regard to failure to maintain stormwater discharge control measures that prevent unauthorized discharge of sediment from the site.

Consent Amendments

A consent amendment is issued in settlement of a previous administrative order or to amend a pre-existing consent order. A consent amendment indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Woodbury County

- Goldsmith and Son, Inc., John E. Goldsmith, and J & G Pallet, L.L.C. of Sergeant Bluff, agreed in a consent amendment to pay a \$5,000 penalty. This amends a 2007 administrative order regarding wastewater violations at a truck wash site in Sergeant Bluff.

Writers: Cassy Lalan and Elise Taylor